

# Vartan's Appeal



**400,000**  
children starving  
in Bible Lands



# VARTAN'S APPEAL

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**V**ARTAN is an Armenian boy who shows in his face the possibilities of his people and the suffering through which they have passed. He is named after their great hero who fifteen hundred years ago fell gloriously resisting the overwhelming invading army that would have crushed out their race and Christian faith if it could.

Through all these centuries Armenia has been the bulwark of Christianity in the Near East and its people have been the seed of coming democracy. "Armenia," says an English military critic, "is the Belgium of Asia." Brute force has kept this land in subjection, but her spirit lives on unquenched.

Vartan appeals to America on behalf of Armenia and also on behalf of the Greeks, Assyrians, Syrians and Persians who are ground under the heel of the Turk.

This work of relief has a vital connection with the winning of the war. Germany cannot be absolved from the responsibility for the massacres and deportations from which these people have suffered. This was part of her plan for dominating the world by force, a plan which we can help to foil by keeping alive the remnant who have survived and by rehabilitating their desolated countries.

**"R**EPORTS indicate that of orphans alone there are more than 400,000. The situation is so distressing as to make a special appeal to the sympathies of all."

WOODROW WILSON,  
President of the United States.

**"T**HE appeal for funds to relieve the sufferings of the Armenian and Syrian peoples deserves the most substantial support."

SIR ROBERT L. BORDEN,  
Premier of Canada.

**“WITH all my heart I wish you Godspeed in the work of relief you have undertaken in Western Asia.”**  
**THEODORE ROOSEVELT.**

The suffering races are our allies in this war; eighty thousand exiled Greeks from Asia Minor are working in the munition factories of Greece and Macedonia, sixty thousand more are in the Greek army fighting with the Allies in Macedonia, and a little Armenian army held out for a long time in the Caucasus against the invasion of the Turk. Mr. Thomas Dann Heald, who has returned from the Caucasus, reported as the latest news from there that the Armenians, after refusing terms with the Turks when the Germans offered a small area for a republic, had taken a large town in which there were food supplies.

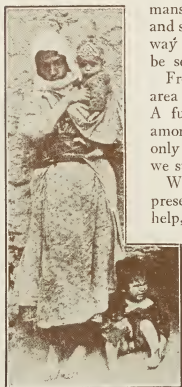
Immediately after the surrender of the Turks a representative commission was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. James L. Barton to sail at once and study the situation anew and prepare the way for a company of workers who must soon be sent to direct the work of rehabilitation.

From the devastated countries in this great area there are four million known refugees. A full million are now within our reach, among whom are 400,000 children, and their only hope of life is in the food and clothing we supply them.

War has ravaged their land and for the present has destroyed the possibility of self-help, but they are our brothers and must have our sympathy and support.

Much of the food for the people in the Palestine section of this wide field is obtainable in Egypt. We purchase it there and have it shipped in on motor trucks at top speed so that lives may be saved that might be lost by a little delay.

Long ago the words “grain in



**“YOU can be sure that the money, whatever is given, will be properly administered for a people that need it sorely.”**

**WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT.**

Egypt” brought hope and heart to the household of Jacob, whose ten sons made the journey with asses and brought food for the families in need. Motor trucks instead of asses, with telegraphic and wireless communication, is a great advance in efficiency, but in view of the greatness of the need and the multitude of the people served, the problem is much greater in proportion. It is interesting, though, to remember that once more messengers are passing over the same roads on the same errand as they did years ago. They are serving a people like those who were kept alive then and from whom came such men as Moses, David, Isaiah and Paul. Who can say what man may yet be found from among these people in days to come and what blessings may result to the world from the saving of these lives that to-day look to us for bread?

The Armenian atrocities are so recent and what can be told has been so widely published that it is perhaps not necessary or wise to attempt to repeat the harrowing tales that have made the story behind this destitution one of the blackest pages of human history. We must, however, see the need in its breadth and fullness and heed the challenge of the people's cry.

## **WHAT A CHARGE!**



## ASIA MINOR

The Armenians and the Greeks are the people who have suffered most in Asia Minor. There are at present known to be 1,200,000 refugees. The reports that come through give us a graphic story of the constant effort on the part of our workers to keep the breath of life in the bodies of such of this number as we can reach. Many of these who are now destitute and absolutely dependent were once prosperous people. Some of them are beginning to drift

back to their old homes, but they are coming in an extreme state of destitution and are finding their homes in ruins, their land laid waste, their cattle lost and their simple agricultural implements gone. They face their dreary task of life with naked hands.



**Ready and Willing to Help Themselves**

food and without friend. Our committees are able to reach many of these and are attempting to meet the absolute need, but the best they are able to do in many cases is to supply one bowl of soup twice a week.

## PERSIA

Mr. Lawrence Caldwell, the American minister to Persia, is the best authority on conditions in Persia. He recently cabled, reporting the arrival at Hamadan of 65,000 Assyrian Christian refugees from Urumia. These are all that are left of 80,000, who, a little while before, were driven out from their mountain homes. The others perished by the way. Dr. W. A. Shedd, chairman of the Western Persian Relief Committee, died himself while trying to lead these people to a place of safety.

Dr. Harry Pratt Judson, President of the University of Chicago,

## THE RUSSIAN CAUCASUS

Here there are 300,000 homeless refugees. Think of them, almost a thousand a day for every day of the year, without home, without

**"IN spite of the rupture of relations between the United States and Turkey the relief work was fortunately being carried on most effectively through reliable agents among the Armenians, Greeks, and Syrians. Thousands of lives have been and are still being saved by the efforts of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief."**

**HENRY MORGENTHAU.**

is now in Persia as leader of the Persian Relief Commission and is organizing the relief work in that country. Last year 70,000 persons died in Teheran alone. Dr. Judson's work will prevent a repetition of such wholesale death this year—if the funds are forthcoming.

### **MESOPOTAMIA**

With the Turk conquered, thousands of women and orphans are creeping out from their hiding-places in the mountains of Mesopotamia and are being passed on through the British lines to places of safety and refuge. These famished creatures are adding daily to our great and urgent responsibility.

### **PALESTINE AND SYRIA**

Whole provinces with hundreds of thousands of Syrians, Armenians and Greeks are coming within the reach of our relief workers as a result of General Allenby's triumphant advance. These people are in a starved condition, their little property is gone, their relatives by the thousands have been killed, and their meager means of livelihood have been taken from them. We become responsible for the threefold task of feeding and clothing their bodies, cheering their broken spirits, and helping to reestablish them in self-support.



**Registering Refugees**

## GET THE COMPLETE PICTURE

Four million destitute people foodless, homeless, in rags and without means of support! This includes 400,000 homeless children. The number is increasing daily, and each one is looking to our land of plenty for bread to eat and help to life and self-respect.

## NOT CHARITY, BUT A CHANCE

Now it is necessary to give food to the famished and raiment to the ragged. These people, however, are industrious and thrifty. They do not desire charity, they want a chance. Our call is for financial help to make it possible to satisfy hungry mouths and give these people bodies capable of the work they must do in rehabilitating their devastated land.

Our commissions buy food and distribute it with infinite care. They buy plows, harrows, rakes, hoes and seeds to get these people back on their land again. Sewing machines, needles, thimbles, thread, cloth and garments of all descriptions are taken over to help the women to self-help. Cattle must be secured for them to stock their land, and household supplies, such as cooking utensils of the simplest character, must be provided to help these people to live. The most careful superintendence is practised so as to make *your money* secure *the most* in this field of need.

## WHERE YOU COME IN

Thirty millions of dollars is a small sum with which to attempt to meet so great a need. However, that is the sum that is asked for. \$2,000,000 of this must come from the Sunday Schools of North America.

Five dollars supports one of these orphan children for a month, sixty dollars for a year. Will you or your class undertake this plan of systematic, sustained help? Here are thousands of children within your reach dying for want of food. If it were a child at your doorstep you would not allow it to starve. These are at your very door in spite of the miles of distance. What will you do?

**Make checks payable to Cleveland H. Dodge, Treasurer  
American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief  
One Madison Avenue, New York**

## The Child at the Door

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**A** CHILD is crying beyond our door  
In the cold and the wind and the  
wild downpour,

*(How can we sit at ease within?)*

*A child is calling beyond our gate,*

*Starving and stark and desolate,*

*(How can we bid the feast begin?)*

*The doors of the world are heavy and tall,*

*But the cry of a child can pierce them all*

*(A cry of a child in anguish sore).*

*And though it sounds from a land apart,*

*'Tis at our threshold and at our heart,*

*(A child is crying beyond our door).*

*How may we sit content and warm*

*When a child is lost in the night and storm?*

*(The night of famine, the storm of War),*

*How may we break our bread in ease,*

*Hearing the voice of the least of these?*

*(A child is crying beyond our door.)*

— THEODOSIA GARRISON